

GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS

and the Appendant Orders of
MASSACHUSETTS AND RHODE ISLAND

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND GOOD CHEER

COMMITTEE

R.E. SIR HAROLD S. CROCKER, *Chairman*

E. SIR FRED H. WILCKE

E. SIR WILLIAM TURNER

E. SIR REGINALD F. GOLDSWORTHY

E. SIR CLYDE L. CARTER

Boston, Mass., April 1, 1948, A.O. 830

OFFICIAL ORDER No. 2

SERIES 1947-1948

TO THE EMINENT COMMANDERS, OFFICERS AND SIR KNIGHTS OF THE CONSTITUENT
COMMANDERIES OF THIS GRAND JURISDICTION

GREETINGS:

The following summary of the contributions by the various Commanderies for the Christmas Offering and Good Cheer is very gratifying and shows that the Sir Knights in our Grand Jurisdiction are willing and anxious to lend a helping hand to their less fortunate brethren.

The contributions made for our last Christmas reached a total of \$6,820.59, the largest amount ever contributed since the beginning of this activity in 1931.

The following extracts are taken from the reports sent to the headquarters of the Grand Commandery:

ST. JOHN No. 1—Money was given in most cases because our needy cases were in homes or being privately boarded. In other cases, where it seemed best, potted plants or baskets of fruit were given. The recipients were all very grateful according to the letters and notes received. EVERETT B. BYLES, *Commander*.

BOSTON No. 2—Money donations made to aged Sir Knights and cheery messages sent to others. Received many notes of appreciation. I enjoyed being able to distribute this Good Cheer from the Sir Knights of Boston Commandery.

ALFRED C. BLAKE, *Commander*.

NEWBURYPORT No. 3—Baskets and money given to the needy. Eight families were assisted. Gifts were received with thankfulness.

EVERETT P. LEAVITT, *Commander*.

WASHINGTON No. 4—Cash to needy widows, several baskets of fruit to the sick, the widows and elderly Sir Knights. One plant to a bereaved widow. It was one of the most enjoyable tasks that I have ever undertaken, to see the looks of pleasure and the tears of gratitude, especially from the elderly Past Commanders and Sir Knights.

BERTILE F. BRODIN, *Commander*.

WORCESTER COUNTY No. 5—Assistance, goodwill, and cheer was extended to thirty-nine individuals and families in disbursing this Fund. Letters of appreciation and thanks from the recipients indicates beyond question that in many instances this Christmas Offering of Knights Templars was God-sent in time of real and urgent need. We of Worcester County Commandery are happy in the response of the Knights and the good that has been accomplished.

EIGNAR RINGQUIST, *Commander*.

SPRINGFIELD No. 6—Over 50% of the amount collected was given to our own needy members. \$50.00 was given to one of our Past Commanders who had been under heavy medical expenses for over six months. The result was very gratifying to the members of the Council. WILLIAM M. LEE, *Commander*.

DE MOLAY No. 7—180 Sir Knights contributed. Unexpended balance will be used for further relief in the Spring. This is a happy custom appreciated by the givers as well as by those who received.

ALTON L. MILLER, *Commander*.

HOLY SEPULCHRE No. 8—Two distressed fraters assisted financially. Distributed ten baskets of fruit and flowers. Cards of thanks received and also several personal thank-you calls made.

NORMAN C. MARTIN, *Commander*.

PILGRIM No. 9—Distributed baskets of fruit, cigars, plants, and made donations of money. Many very favorable comments were received from members and those receiving donations.

JOHN M. FAIRBANKS, *Commander*.

PALESTINE No. 10—Donations made to the Chelsea Day Nursery, Children's Home, Visiting Nurse. Local needy homes were given food and clothing. Certainly a most worthy project and I am proud to participate. Reaction "God Bless the Commandery."

REGINALD F. GOLDSWORTHY, *Commander*.

MILFORD No. 11—Baskets of flowers were sent to widows of Sir Knights, and fruit and gifts of money given to those less fortunate ones. The response from the Sir Knights was most pleasing, and in all cases recipients were deeply grateful.

EDWARD S. HOLBROOK, *Commander*.

ST. BERNARD No. 12—Given to the Most Worshipful Grand Master for distribution among our Masonic Brethren in the Home at Charlton and the Hospital at Shrewsbury. EDWARD N. CHASE, *Commander*.

CALVARY No. 13—Baskets of fruit to the shut-ins. Food baskets for needy members of own Commandery. All were gratefully accepted.

JOHN J. HOGG, *Commander*.

HAVERHILL No. 14—Upon the recommendation of the Chairman of our Charitable Fund and other interested Sir Knights, the sum of \$38.00 has been expended. The balance to be disposed of to worthy cases. Response was very generous in view of present conditions. CARLETON K. MARSHALL, *Commander*.

OLD COLONY No. 15—Cash gifts to six worthy cases. Letters of appreciation have been received.

J. NEWTON SHIRLEY, *Commander*.

SUTTON No. 16—Cash disbursements, baskets of food and flowers, etc. The shut-ins and needy were visited by the Commander, and without exception were grateful for the help and the personal calls made by the Commander. It was indeed a great satisfaction.

CHARLES R. DUGDALE, *Commander*.

BETHANY No. 17—Distributed three food baskets, two baskets of fruit, three plants, one cash gift, one bouquet; nine children received clothing. We found that the recipients were grateful for the assistance. The council are agreed that the help that we gave the children gave us the most satisfaction.

THOMAS R. HADFIELD, *Commander*.

WINSLOW LEWIS No. 18—Baskets of fruit, Christmas dinners, and clothing. The above gifts were much appreciated by the recipients and it was a pleasure for me and Winslow Lewis Commandery to give them.

CLARENCE A. SWETT, *Commander*.

JERUSALEM No. 19—It was my pleasure to visit several of our needy Sir Knights and give gifts of money. To others a basket of fruit with best wishes from Jerusalem Commandery. Several letters, tears from some and a better knowledge of "Nor Joy, nor Grief, nor Hope, nor Fear, Has left one trace on Record here." JOSEPH R. HARGREAVES, *Commander*.

HUGH DE PAYENS No. 20—Distributed dinners, baskets of fruit, plants and money donations. The response was far more than I expected and we therefore were able to extend more Christmas Cheer to the needy than we had thought possible. The letters of thanks received more than repay our efforts spent in helping of those in need.

FRANK C. GREELEY, *Commander*.

ST. OMER No. 21—We sent and delivered baskets of fruit, cigars, etc., and checks to all of the Sir Knights referred to us by visiting committee and by our members. We disposed of the balance of fund by aiding several other worthy cases referred to us by the Sir Knights of St. Omer Commandery.

LESTER F. BOYCE, *Commander*.

BERKSHIRE No. 22—The amount collected was used for our aged Sir Knights and their widows. Letters of appreciation have been received.

FRANK R. HOYT, *Commander*.

CONNECTICUT VALLEY No. 23—The amount collected was distributed among three of our older Sir Knights who need help, and one widow of one of our late Sir Knights. Thank-you letters received from all; they appreciated our gifts.

JOSEPH L. HYLAND, *Commander*.

WOONSOCKET No. 24—Baskets of fruit and cigars to worthy Sir Knights. Letters of thanks received from all. HAROLD G. VOELKER, *Commander*.

GODFREY DE BOUILLON, No. 25—Donation of money was given to Brother Wilkinson, a member of Narragansett Lodge, A. F. & A. M., who has two crippled children. Brother Wilkinson and his wife were most grateful, realizing that it was a thoughtful gift from another Masonic Body of which Brother Wilkinson is not a member.

GEORGE A. E. GRAY, *Commander*.

JOSEPH WARREN No. 26—Cash presents and baskets of fruit sent to worthy Sir Knights and widows of three Sir Knights.

FRANKLIN E. WELCH, *Commander*.

NARRAGANSETT No. 27—Plants sent to our elderly shut-in members. One Sir Knight was so pleased that he had the plant placed at the foot of his bed and told everyone that he saw where it came from. Within a week he died. His family was most appreciative of the happiness the plant brought him in his last few days.

DONALD W. KENNETH, *Commander*.

BRISTOL No. 29—Baskets of fruit, plants, cigarettes, candy and money donations made. All who received the gifts seemed to appreciate them very much.

WALTER E. MCGINN, *Commander*.

NORTHAMPTON No. 30—Entire amount used to provide the Annual Christmas dinner at home of Children's Aid Association in Northampton, together with annual Children's Christmas Party in the Asylum, expenses amounting to \$77.57, with check for \$22.43 sent to the office of the Children's Aid Association. This was the 30th annual activity for the children and the officers of the Association state that it is probably the outstanding event for the children living there during the year and is looked forward to with much anticipation and satisfaction not only by the children but by all adults connected in any way with the success of the affair. JOHN CAMBRIDGE, *Commander*.

SOUTH SHORE No. 31—Various ways as the need seemed apparent. Flowers to widows, smokes and food baskets to some Sir Knights and some others outside of the Order. Practically a 100% either verbal, or by letter, appreciation of our efforts to spread cheer to our less fortunate. Well worth the effort.

BASIL S. WARREN, *Commander*.

TRINITY No. 32—Money donations to two widows of Past Commanders. Basket of fruit to a widow in the hospital. Money donation to a Past Commander who was shut-in by an accident. Letters of thanks received expressing their gratitude.

HAROLD B. BLENKHORN, *Commander*.

NATICK No. 33—Four baskets of fruit to shut-ins, plant to a sick member, and donation to sick widowed mother of a former Masonic member. The comments were very pleasing and each recipient was grateful.

ROLAND A. LOVELACE, *Commander*.

COEUR DE LION No. 34—Money donations to needy families, money to Rev. Lang for charity, and plants to widows of our late Sir Knights. The gifts to these needy families were greatly appreciated and the widows were especially pleased to be remembered by the Commandery. PERLEY S. VANCE, *Commander*.

GETHSEMANE No. 35—Money for clothing for a son of a deceased member, and food for a needy family on Cape Cod. Balance of fund on hand will be used as needed. This is the third year we have helped this boy, and balance of the fund may be spent on him this spring. FRANK B. MEHAFFEY, *Commander*.

OLIVET No. 36—Fruit to the sick and shut-ins, Christmas Dinners, and Cash donations. Knight Templarism at its best. The replies received from the recipients more than make up for the effort expended and the knowledge we have been of service to some one less fortunate is ample reward.

ROBERT W. HUTCHINSON, *Commander*.

ATHOL No. 37—Cash and fruit delivered to sick Sir Knights on night before Christmas. Very much appreciated. RAYMOND H. WATSON, *Commander*.

BAY STATE No. 38—Plants, candy, baskets of fruit and money donations. We delivered plants, candy and baskets of fruit to homes, hospitals, and rest homes. Delivered checks to worthy and needy cases. All of which were to Sir Knights and Brother Masons. A very pleasant duty. We received a number of beautiful letters of appreciation in our files.

LOZEAH W. CHADWICK, *Commander*.

CYPRUS No. 39—Distributed checks to needy Sir Knights following personal visits. Many letters of acknowledgment received.

ARCHIBALD S. HICKS, *Commander*.

ST. PAUL No. 40—Distributed baskets of fruit. Much appreciated. SAMUEL WOOD, *Commander*.

BEAUSEANT No. 41—Distributed baskets to three Sir Knights, checks to a Past Commander, and two Masonic widows, also checks and food to several unfortunate families. All recipients sent in letters of thanks. JAMES A. WESTHAVER, *Commander*.

CAMBRIDGE No. 42—All of the collection and an additional amount given to worthy Knights and widows of Sir Knights. Not as much received as expected but we were able to meet all of the demands required for charity.

SARGENT S. STEARNS, *Commander*.

BETHLEHEM No. 43—Aided one Sir Knight and two members of the Craft.

GEORGE H. MORSE, JR., *Commander*.

ORANGE No. 45—Boxes of candy, packs of cigars and cash were distributed to aged and worthy Sir Knights. All greatly appreciated.

WILLIAM C. FURBUSH, *Commander*.

IVANHOE No. 46—Checks mailed to deserving cases, all were Masons but not all were Commandery members. Christmas plants to others confined but not in need. Comments have been excellent. A letter was included with each check from the Commander and some replies have been received.

HAROLD A. TAYLOR, *Commander*.

QUINCY No. 47—Distributions of baskets, dinners, cash donations and cards. All gifts were gratefully accepted. EARL C. STEVENSON, *Commander*.

TEMPLE No. 48—Cash, flowers, baskets of food, and reply to children's letters to Santa Claus. All recipients appreciated their gifts.

CHARLES A. GEORGE, *Commander*.

ST. ANDREW No. 49—Sent tobacco and pipes to Sir Knight in hospital, flowers to four Sir Knights shut-in. Bought a Ladder of Smiles at the Shrine Hospital. CORNELIUS STAPLEY, *Commander*.

READING No. 50—Distributed money gifts to 16 Sir Knights and plants to widows of Sir Knights. Letters of appreciation and many pleasant remarks from individuals who were in contact with the recipients.

WALTER C. BOONE, *Commander*.

THOMAS SMITH WEBB No. 51—Cash relief to a needy member. Remembrances to sick or ailing members, to invalided non-member, remembrances to widows of Sir Knights, food to two elderly ladies in real need, clothes for several school children, presents to two invalided children, and medical supplies for an elderly couple. A lot of work but one of the most "soul satisfying" tasks that I have ever done.

ALFRED E. GRANT, *Commander*.

SIR GALAHAD No. 52—Distributed cash or Christmas baskets to seven Sir Knights and two needy families. I made all distributions and the experience was one mingled with happiness and sadness. The happiness came from Sir Knights of advanced age whose enthusiasm could well be used among so many younger Sir Knights. How they look forward to the monthly communications as their only present contact! (A great opportunity is being overlooked). The sadness came from one family, who, without our contributions, would not have had any Christmas for their children. JOHN S. MILLER, *Commander*.

WINTHROP No. 53—Cash donations to three worthy Masonic Families. Very greatly appreciated as the cash would allow them to purchase the small things so necessary for a happy holiday.

FRED H. WILCKE, *Commander*.

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

1931	\$5768.24
1932	4973.75
1933	4436.65
1934	4946.82
1935	4088.37
1936	4915.34
1937	4798.81
1938	4608.07
1939	4386.23
1940	4610.99
1941	4588.35
1942	4217.04
1943	4715.01
1944	5732.60
1945	6033.19
1946	6699.20
1947	6820.59

Total \$86339.25

It is my order that this communication be read at the next Conclave following its receipt and spread upon the records.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Grand Commandery this 20th day of March, 1948, A.O. 830.

Courteously yours,

GEORGE A. WEEKS,
Grand Commander.



ATTEST:

WILLIAM H. EVANS,
Grand Recorder